

Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and the Marine Environmental Data Service, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," twice monthly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. These publications can be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, or by calling (313) 226-6441. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication(s). The Internet address <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh> contains this information on the Internet.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology September 2009

The Great Lakes basin experienced lower than average precipitation during the month of September. Precipitation over the past 12 months has been below average in the Lake Superior basin, near average in the Lake Michigan-Huron basin and above average in the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario basins. Due to the below average precipitation in September, the net supply of water to all of the Great Lakes was also below average. The tables below list September precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

When compared to their long-term (1918-2008) averages, Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron were 5 and 6 inches, respectively, below average. Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario were 2 to 3 inches above average in September.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	September				12-Month Comparison			
	2009	Average	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average	Diff.	% of Average
		(1900-1999)				(1900-1999)		
Superior	1.35	3.50	-2.15	39	24.51	30.45	-5.94	80
Michigan-Huron	1.71	3.44	-1.73	50	31.65	32.30	-0.65	98
Erie	2.57	3.20	-0.63	80	39.28	35.28	4.00	111
Ontario	2.47	3.28	-0.81	75	35.99	35.65	0.34	101
Great Lakes	1.82	3.40	-1.58	54	31.69	32.53	-0.84	97

LAKE	September WATER SUPPLIES ² (cfs)		September OUTFLOW ³ (cfs)	
	2009	Average ⁵ (1900-1999)	2009	Average ⁴ (1900-1999)
Superior	4,000	72,000	75,000	83,000
Michigan-Huron	-15,000	29,000	183,000	194,000
Erie	-26,000	-18,000	199,000	203,000
Ontario	-10,000	5,000	275,000	249,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

¹ Estimated

² Negative water supply denotes evaporation from lake exceeded runoff from local basin.

³ Does not include diversions.

⁴ Niagara and St Lawrence rivers average outflows are based on period of record 1900-1989 and 1900-2006, respectively

⁵ Lakes Erie and Ontario average water supplies based on 1900-1989